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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Stabilization Service
Washington, D. C.

314762

Subject: Statement Concerning the Release and Reapportionment
of Farm Acreage allotments as Related to the 1956
Acreage Reserve Program of the Soil Bank.

The problem involved in the release of individual allotments by farmers to county committees for reapportionment to other farms is one which, as it relates to the 1956 Acreage Reserve Program, arose from two laws that are, to a certain extent, in conflict. Under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, a farmer who did not desire to grow his allotment could release it to the ASC county committee with the assurance that the allotment would be protected provided some of the commodity was grown on the farm during the applicable base period. Farmers were continuing to take advantage of this provision of law for 1956 at the time Soil Bank legislation was being considered by the Congress. They, of course, could not know that the Soil Bank Act would provide compensation for those acres which they did not want to plant and also permit their retention for farm history for future allotments.

Last minute efforts were made in some areas to give farmers an opportunity to withdraw the release of their allotment, but in other areas it was too late because planting time had passed before final Soil Bank legislation was enacted. State and county ASC committees were obliged to set closing dates for releasing and reapportioning allotments in line with the normal planting time in an area.

Under the provisions of the 1956 Acreage Reserve Program, participation is measured by the reduction in the 1956 acreage of a commodity below the 1956 farm acreage allotment. The final allotment for the farm for the purpose of participating in the Acreage Reserve Program is the allotment after release and after reapportionment. Presumably the released allotment which had been reapportioned was available for planting elsewhere. It would, therefore, be inconsistent with the purpose of the Acreage Reserve Program, - to curtail production - to make compensation for reducing acreage on any other basis than from the allotted acreage available for planting.

This situation represents one of the difficult problems encountered by the Department in an effort to make the Acreage Reserve Program effective for 1956. It is a problem which will not arise under the 1957 and future Acreage Reserve Programs because all farmers will be given an early opportunity to decide whether they desire to release their allotment to the ASC county committee or retain it and participate in the Acreage Reserve Program.

SOIL BANK DIVISION
August 11, 1956





